

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, and 25-40 are pending in the present application and remain in this application for prosecution. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 16-22, 25, 27-30, 32-34, 36, and 40 have been amended.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 14, 16-21, 25-33, 36, 37, and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,842,698 to Brown (“Brown”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,073 to Vancura (“Vancura”).

Claims 8, 10-13, 34, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Vancura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,155,925 to Giobbi *et al.*

Claims 22, 38, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Vancura as applied to claim 21 and 32 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,210,275 to Olsen.

Personal Interview and Interview Summary

The Applicants note with appreciation the interview with Examiner Dat Nguyen and Examiner John Hotaling on October 18, 2007. Pursuant to the discussions in the interview, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 27, and 32 to clarify the invention.

During the interview, it was agreed that the proposed amendments overcome the current rejection.

Independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 27, and 32

Independent claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 27, and 32 were amended to further clarify that the gaming terminals are electronic gaming terminals that contribute a portion of inputted wagers to an award.

Brown and Vancura do not disclose the claimed invention that is set forth in amended claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 27, and 32. During the interview on October 18, 2007, the Examiners

acknowledged the fact that the proposed amended claim 1 distinguishes over the art of record at least because Brown fails to disclose that a non-eligible player can make a side wager. In Brown, only a qualified player (e.g., a player having a blackjack) can make a wager. Independent claims 8, 14, 19, 27, and 32 have been amended in accordance with the amendments to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, and 25-40 are allowable.

Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and thus reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

It is believed that no fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Nixon Peabody LLP. Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000207USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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